



ELSAH HISTORY

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Fall. 2000

WHO LIVES WHERE IN 2000? -- AN ELSAH MILLENNIALIST --

by Jeralyn Lewitz

What is an "Elsah Millennialist"? It is a list, a document, that tells who is living in the village of Elsie in this millennial year. Let's stop the clock (which we must do, because so many changes take place) and see just who is here in the valley at this moment of time.

We'll begin at the river, as if we were to come off the Great River Road--and proceed along Mississippi Street to Mill Street. And then go all the way to Cemetery Road, and slightly beyond--with quick side trips as we go up Mill Street, onto the shorter streets: Elm, Selma, Maple, Alma, & Penn. Then we'll go back to the river, up LaSalle Street (with a side trip up Palm Street) to Valley Street.

(Please forgive any mistakes--in spelling or otherwise.)

6 Mississippi—Gate Lodge—vacant (Principia)

12 Mississippi—Riverview House—vacant (Great Rivers Land Trust)

2 Mill—Ice House ruin (Historic Elsie Foundation)

3 Elm—Corner Nest Bed & Breakfast—Judith & Bob Doerr (for sale)

3 Mill—Betsy Holt of Leland, MI

5 Mill—vacant (Holt rental)

7 Mill—Gayle & Terry Lang of Chesterfield, MO

15-17 Mill—Green Tree Inn—Kim & Sam Crocker (Pitchford rental)

18 Mill—vacant (Julia Biesk—for sale)

10 & 10A Selma—Deborah & Tim Smith of St. Louis, MO **

12 Selma—Maple Leaf Cottage Inn (Taetz—for sale)

22 Mill—Buggy Shop—Peggy Ouderkirk

25 Mill—Marjorie Doerr

27 Mill—Lucy & Merlin Lewis (Principia rental)

2 Maple—vacant (Joanne & Jim Evans—for sale)

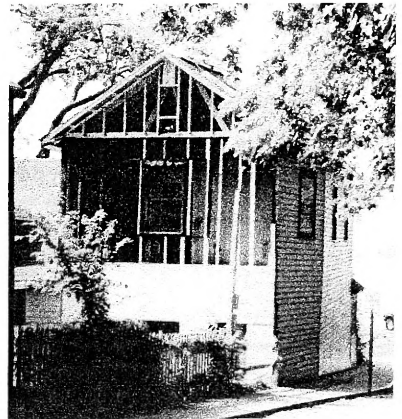
37 Mill—Farley's Music Hall (Historic Elsie Foundation)

43 Mill—Patty & Jerry Taetz

44A Mill—Mary Paddock (Kinder rental) **

44 Mill—Randy Kinder

47 Mill—Gail & Dave Haslam (Slusser rental)



*Riverview House under restoration
by Great Rivers Land Trust –
August 2000*

2 Alma—Michelle & Arnie Schmith

- 48 Mill—United States Post Office (Tripidi rental)
- 50 Mill—Carla & Jeff Luken
- 51 Mill—Civic Center (Village of Elsah)
- 54 Mill—Norman Brokaw **
- 56 Mill—Sara & Bob Rockabrand
- 57 Mill—Mary Tober
- 59 Mill—Gil Ives (Lewitz rental)
- 61 Mill—Fountain Square Park (Village of Elsah)
- 62 Mill—Kaitlyn Rose (Lewitz rental) **
- 66 Mill—Jeri & Ed Lewitz
- 67 Mill—Lori Hunter/Tab Bradley
- 69 Mill—Linda Bohaker
- 70 Mill—Marie Cresswell

4 Penn—ruin (M.Pitchford)

After end of Penn—Whitney Howland (Thompson rental) **

- 74 Mill—Janice Eddleman **
- 75 Mill—John Fritsche of Jacksonville, IL
- 80 Mill—Debbie & Bill Flatley
- 86 Mill—Stacie & Dan Schaefer (Principia rental)
- 87 Mill—Janice Neuhaus
- 90 Mill—Virginia & Gary Mitchell **
- 95 Mill—Dora & Martin Whitehead
- 101 Mill—Carolyn & Bob Ruland
- 106 Mill—vacant (Stickler rental)
- 107 Mill—vacant (Bob Lowder)
- 108 Mill—Cy Bunting (Stickler rental)
- 110 Mill—Boy Scout building (Village of Elsah)
- 111 Mill—Pat & Greg Mossman of Alton, IL
- 112 Mill—Fire House (Village of Elsah)
- 113 Mill—Sally & Gene Horbelt
- 114 Mill—Maintenance building (Village of Elsah)
- 117 Mill—Judy & David Spencer

- 122A Cemetery—duplex—vacant (Mainwaring rental)
- 122B Cemetery—duplex—Jim Dowcett (Mainwaring rental) **
- 124 Cemetery—vacant (Mainwaring rental)
- 126 Cemetery—Linda & Ken Deal
- 128 Cemetery—Eric Becker (G.Becker rental) **
- 130 Cemetery—June & Bob Cronin

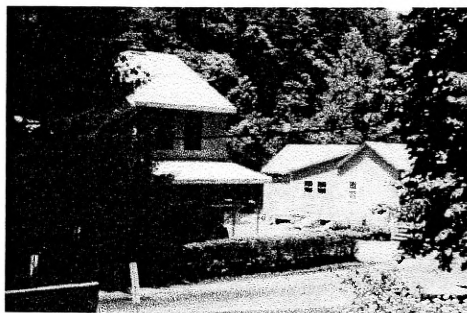
- 138 Mill—vacant (Blanche Shepard)
- 140 Mill—Eleanor Barnal



*Looking from the Rockabrand garden (56 Mill)
across the street to Gil Ives' garden (59 Mill)*

May 1999

*(Both gardens have grown considerably
since then!)*



*The T.Bradley/ L.Hunter house under
construction—in what used to be*

Nettie Cronin's yard

June 2000



8 LaSalle—vacant (Great Rivers Land Trust)
10 LaSalle—Barbara & Richard Butler **
11 LaSalle—Edith Hammond (Pfeifer rental)
12 LaSalle—Pauline & Mike Pitchford
14 LaSalle—Paula & Ned Bradley
15 LaSalle—Jim Green (Principia rental)
16 LaSalle—Ann & Mark Badasch **
17 LaSalle—Maybeck Filling Station—Christian Science Reading Room
 (Principia rental)
18 LaSalle—Mott Building—My Just Desserts restaurant & vacant apt.
 (Badasch rental)
19 LaSalle—Mary Paine
20 LaSalle—Keller Store—Jeremiah's store, and Bruno David (Lewitz rental)
22 LaSalle—Larry Keller & J.K. Keller & Son store **
26 LaSalle—Village Hall—Museum (Village of Elsayh)
27 LaSalle—Karen Rohne of St. Louis, MO **

2 Palm—Phyllis & Robert Pennamon (Principia rental)
6 Palm—Inge & Al Mack
6A Palm—Paul Garritson (Mack rental) **
12 Palm—Tim Dawn (Bunting rental)
16 Palm—Sue Collester of Nashville, IN
18 Palm—Patti & Gary Fry (for sale)
24 Palm—Lynn & Eric Schreiber

29 LaSalle—Nancy McDow
30 LaSalle—Union Hotel—vacant (McDow)
33 LaSalle—Pat & Duncan Charters
44 LaSalle—Taetz rental
38, 40, 42 LaSalle—Maple Leaf Cottage Inn (Taetz—for sale)
51 LaSalle—Christian Science Church Children's Room (Christian Science Church)
53 LaSalle—Christian Science Church (& former C.S. Children's Room building—vacant) (Christian Science Church)

2 Valley—Methodist Church
3 Valley—Mary Ann Pitchford
7 Valley—Jane & David Pfeifer (Principia rental)
10 Valley—vacant (Charles rental)
11 Valley—Lynda Sleight (Young rental)
17 Valley—Sandy Stack (Principia rental)
19 Valley—Susan & Mark Young

**** WELCOME** to these new residents!!

And **GOODBYE** to these friends: Sara Batzer & Tim Jasina, Charlene & Gerald Becker, Julia Biesk, Sharon Crafton, Jan & Joe Eigner, Joanne & Jim Evans, the Kevin Hayes, Cricket Johnson, Genie & Ed Keller, Laura Kezer, Bill Kreutzer, Rhoda & Richard Mesker, Julie & Steven Sheridan, Carol Stookey (though she's nearby!), the Tucker family, Kim Whitmore, and Brian Wolf (the last two both live nearby, too).

Did you count the number of times the word "vacant" appears? It occurs 17 times!
 And try counting the number of part-time residents (identified with the word "of..."). There are 7.
 Maybe they will choose to make this their primary home.



The newly paved ditch next to the Rohne house (27 La-Salle), looking from Palm St. toward the Village Hall

Jim Evans and friends reenact the Civil War at the Village Museum - May 2000





RECENT CHANGES & IMPROVEMENTS IN THE VILLAGE

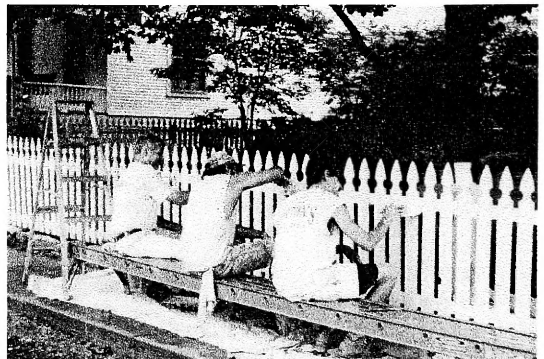
- New roofs on: the Doerrs' Corner Nest at 3 Elm Street, the Keller home at 22 LaSalle, the former Eigner house at 62 Mill, and the Lewitz' garage & garden house at 66 Mill
- New paint jobs at: the Methodist Church, the C.S. Reading Room ** (also interior improvements & a new sign there), Farley's Music Hall, the Corner Nest at 3 Elm, the Charters' home at 33 LaSalle **, the Rulands' at 101 Mill, and the Smiths' at 10 Selma
- Extensive repairs on Riverview House, 12 Mississippi, by Great Rivers Land Trust **
- Lovely gardens at Haslams' (47 Mill), Rockabrand's (56 Mill), and Ives' (59 Mill) **
- A new house built by Tab Bradley as his home, on the side lawn of the former Nettie Cronin house at 67 Mill **
- A new porch and repair of a dry-stack wall at the Pitchford home at 12 LaSalle, and a new porch at Butlers' at 10 LaSalle
- New wooden storm windows on most of the Keller Store Building at 20 LaSalle
- New shades in the Village Hall (Museum) at 26 LaSalle
- Sidewalk & ditch improvements **
- Trees removed from behind Farley's, at the Ice House ruin on Mill Street, and at the Ouderkirk home at 22 Mill
- New equipment upstairs at the Civic Center, which is now office space for the Mayor, Clerk, Deputy Clerk, Treasurer, and Policeman

** See pictures on various pages in this newsletter.

*Larry Inming and his workers at the
Christian Science Reading Room
June 2000*



*... and painting the picket fence
at Charters' (33 LaSalle)
July 2000*





VILLAGE AND MUSEUM ACTIVITIES

OPEN MEETING:

At an open meeting on May 23 villagers discussed the following issues:

- elevating Riverview House,
- making LaSalle Street one-way toward the river,
- having a sitting area near the river where the parking lot is now,
- parking tourist buses along Mill Street in green spaces or in the slough by the river,
- adding a sidewalk along Mill Street from Mississippi to Elm.

More recently, an idea was proposed to use State funds to open up the area by the Elsayh quarry (owned by Principia) for parking buses and cars, and have the new Byway Commission furnish a large kiosk there.

The Village is proceeding with plans for putting a restroom in the jail behind the Village Hall. There will have to be a place for vehicles to turn around, and this will involve moving the outhouse up the hill a short way. The Village has been given \$200,000 for this whole project.

On December 2 there will be a tree decorating party at 3 pm in Selma Square.

The annual Christmas hymn sing will be Sunday, December 17 at 3 pm, at the two churches.

Next spring, on April 29, the Village will host an old car show, with a rain date of May 6.

MUSEUM:

An early 20th-century postcard has been reproduced for sale at the Museum.

A Civil War reenactment took place at the Museum on Sunday, May 7. Jim Evans and friends participated.

There was a special Museum exhibit by local photographers during the summer.

And at the end of October there was a Museum exhibit on the Keller bakery, with a very successful bake sale on Saturday, October 28. Proceeds from the sale will go toward conservation of museum items. As part of the exhibit, Jim Schmidt tape-interviewed Ed Keller on his memories of the bakery.





HEF ACTIVITIES

A set of the four Elsay prints by local artists has been matted and framed for display at Farley's. The artists include: Glenn Felch, Judith McCreary Felch, James Green, and James Schmidt.

Life Members have just received a gift of Colette Collester's book on Frederick Oakes Sylvester, as a special thanks for their "commitment to the preservation of Elsay."

The Board is still working on the idea of a brick walk alongside Farley's. The delay is because the walk will have to be wheelchair accessible.

A series of public talks & meetings took place last spring. It is continuing this fall and will go into next spring, with more "Fabulous" activities to be announced:

- February 18--Jennifer & Simon Davies—on "Eagles Along the Mississippi"
- March 3--General Membership Meeting—John Williams and other HEF Board members, on recent happenings of HEF; Mayor Jane Pfeifer, on Village matters; David Pfeifer, President of Great Rivers Land Trust; and Principia representatives Howard Berner and Curt Martin, on Principia's relation to the village
- April 7--Peter Martin—on "Garden History in Early America"
- September 19--Wayne Freeman of Great Rivers Land Trust—"Crisis across the River" (Ameren & the US Army Corps plan to fleet 76 barges at the Portage des Sioux power plant and install a massive barge-unloading facility there.)
- September 23--Eric Robinson—on "The Underground Railroad"
- October 20--Tim Tomlinson—on "South Africa: A Nation Coming of Age"
- November 10--General Membership Meeting—update on important issues impacting the village, such as: Ameren & L-15; use of the quarry area for parking; drilling at Elsay properties for underground rental storage space for documents
- Sunday, December 10--Village Stroll & House Tour—3 pm to 6 pm; \$10; tickets, crafts, refreshments & HEF publications available at Farley's; 5 homes open: Butler at 10 LaSalle, Pitchford at 12 LaSalle, Bradley at 14 LaSalle, Smith at 10 Selma, & Brokaw at 54 Mill; most businesses & both churches open, with a choral group performing at the Methodist church
- Saturday, April 21, 7 pm—Lindsay Garritson & Erin Schreiber musicale

Historic Elsay Foundation

Officers:

| | |
|-----------|-----------------|
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| Secretary | Jeri Lewitz |
| Treasurer | Betty Clark |
| | Eleanor Barnal |
| | Paula Bradley |
| | Marie Cresswell |
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| | Bill Flatley |
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| | Jerry Taetz |

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| Supporting | \$50 |
| Patron | \$100 |
| Life | \$500 |

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